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Vicki Collins

(Type or print name of person mailing paper)

Date: May 19, 1999

(Signature of person mailing paper)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT APPLICATION of ) Group Art Unit: Unassigned  
Arimilli et al. ) Examiner: Unassigned  
Serial No: Divisional of Serial No. 09/187,763 ) Attorney Docket No. 221.P1CD2  
Filed: May 19, 1999 )  
Title: ANTIVIRAL PHOSPHONOMETHOXY )  
NUCLEOTIDE ANALOGS HAVING )  
INCREASED ORAL BIOAVAILABILITY )

### PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Patent Application  
Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This amendment accompanies the above referenced application.

#### In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows.

Cancel claims 1-32.

Add the following new claim:

1. A method comprising contacting a cell with a compound of formula (1a)

